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April 19, 2002

Date of deposit

Lois Maglione

Lois Maglione

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Applicant: Volkmar Schwitzky, Vincent Moreau, Boris Lotscher

Serial No.: 10/055,822

Filed: January 23, 2002

For: FINISHING PROCESS

Attorney Docket No.: 103797-238-NP

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-identified application, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification with the substitute specification attached hereto. A marked up version of the substitute specification showing all changes relative to the previous version of the specification is also attached. The deleted matter is shown by brackets and the added matter is shown by underlying.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 1-5 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for finishing a printed security sheet, wherein said printed security sheet is lacquered to increase durability and to emphasize at least one distinguishing feature.

2. (Amended) The method for finishing of claim 1, wherein said distinguishing feature is emphasized by increasing transparency of said printed sheet by applying a layer of lacquer.

3. (Amended) The method for finishing of claim 1, wherein said printed security sheet is coated in one step over its whole surface with a first layer of lacquer and partially with a second layer of lacquer.

4. (Amended) The method for finishing of claim 1, wherein said distinguishing feature is a security feature.

5. (Amended) The method for finishing of claim 4, wherein said security feature is a watermark.

MARKED UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for finishing a printed security sheet [securities sheets], wherein said printed security sheet is [securities sheets are] lacquered [completely and/or partly] in order to increase [the] durability and to emphasize at least one distinguishing feature[s].

2. (Amended) The method for finishing of claim 1, wherein said [the] distinguishing feature is [features are] emphasized by increasing [the] transparency of said [the] printed sheet by applying a layer of lacquer.

3. (Amended) The method for finishing of claim 1, wherein said [the] printed [securities] security sheet is coated in one step over its whole surface with a first layer of lacquer and partially with a second layer of lacquer.

4. (Amended) The method for finishing of claim 1, wherein [in the features are safety features] said distinguishing feature is a security feature.

5. (Amended) The method for finishing of claim 4, wherein [the safety features are watermarks] said security feature is a watermark.

REMARKS

In the substituted specification and the amended claims, faulty English has been corrected and an Abstract has been added to the specification. The substituted specification and the amendment claims include no new matter. It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in condition for examination.

Respectfully submitted,



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SUBMISSION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit herewith a certified copy of German Patent Application No. 199 35 170.8 filed July 28, 1999, of which Applicants claim priority for the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

TRANSLATOR'S CERTIFICATE

As a translator of the application, I hereby declare that I am fluent in both English and in German, and that the enclosed translation is an accurate translation of the originally filed German text of the above-identified application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Walter Herzberg Feb. 19, 2002
Walter Herzberg Date

FINISHING PROCESS

ABSTRACT

- 5 The invention relates to a method for finishing valuable printed paper sheets to improve the recognition of security features. The printed security paper sheets may be partly or entirely covered with a lacquer used for increasing the durability of printed security paper sheets and for enhancing the security features.